



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**April 23, 2003**

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**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today announced that Joseph Richards, 33, was sentenced in the United States District Court to 151 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release. The sentence was imposed after Richards pleaded guilty to committing the September 5, 2002, robbery of the Citizen's Bank on Hooksett Road in Hooksett, New Hampshire.

Richards qualified as a career offender under the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A person qualifies as a career offender if he has two or more prior felony convictions for either a controlled substance offense or a violent crime. Accordingly, his sentence was increased from 84 months to 151 months.

Joshua Bezanson-Perkins was charged with aiding and abetting Richards in that Bezanson-Perkins drove a Geo Storm used by the defendants. His trial is scheduled for April 2003.

U. S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Congress has explicitly stated that individuals who are found to engage in continued criminal activity should face significant punishment. The United States Attorney's Office is committed to using the tools provided by Congress to remove repeat offenders from society." U.S. Attorney Colantuono expressed his appreciation to the Hooksett Police Department for its quick capture of the defendant and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its assistance in the investigation. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.